

**Federal Subsistence Management Program**

**Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
Projects for Spring 2000  
Second Round**

**Review Draft**

**March 17, 2000**

## **Background**

On October 1, 1999, the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture expanded federal subsistence fisheries management in Alaska under Title VIII of ANILCA. For this new program, the Federal Subsistence Board continues to rely on the special role of the Regional Councils, while cooperating with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and working closely with Alaska Native tribal organizations and the public.

Improving the range of available information is crucial to effective fisheries management B both to protect the resources and to ensure the subsistence priority. To meet this objective, the Board has adopted a unified fisheries resource monitoring approach among the five federal agencies to gather information on fish stock status and trends, subsistence harvest patterns, and traditional ecological knowledge.

The five Federal agencies are working with ADF&G, the Regional Councils, Alaska Native tribes, and other organizations to develop the resource monitoring program. Mr. Willie Goodwin of the Northwest Arctic Regional Council and Mr. Dan O'Hara of the Bristol Bay Regional Council, have participated as representatives of the Regional Councils in all Board deliberations concerning the subsistence fisheries program. The Board intends to build on existing expertise in ADF&G, Alaska Native organizations, and other groups, through Section 809 Cooperative Agreements providing funding for resource monitoring projects.

## **Selecting Fisheries Monitoring Projects**

For the first year of the program in 2000, the Board recognized that early decisions would be needed so we could have several important projects up and running in remote areas when the early salmon runs arrive. At the same time, the Board wanted to insure that all projects were well planned and had local support. As of February 2000, the Board had approved the first 19 projects for the first year of the program. The current package identifies an additional 22 projects for review and Board consideration in early April.

Next year's program is being developed through a more extensive regional priority setting and project planning process. This process has already begun during the winter Regional Council meetings with the Councils, Alaska Native tribes, other organizations, and the public to develop an annual resource monitoring program for 2001.

## **Proposed Projects for Spring 2000**

In this package, you will find projects that address subsistence fisheries management information needs for the 2000 field season. Federal field stations and ADF&G were asked to review existing plans and to submit proposals with scientifically sound methods and strong local support. Several regional tribal associations and other organizations also proposed projects. A small interagency team reviewed over 100 proposals and recommended 23 projects for Board consideration in early April 2000. In Southeast Alaska, the Forest Service, ADF&G, and the tribes have initiated discussions on a large number of projects addressing Federal subsistence fisheries information

needs. They are continuing to consolidate and refine their initial ideas with the goal of proposing a fully developed set of projects for consideration by the Board in mid-May 2000.

This review package includes a one-page description of each proposed project that outlines the issue, study objectives, consultations, and budget. A spreadsheet then summarizes the budgets by region, with a total budget of \$1,669,400. The majority these projects focus on stock assessments, but several important traditional ecological knowledge projects are also included. Rural and other non-government organizations, and local hires represent 44 percent of the funding in this set of proposed projects.

In evaluating proposed projects, the interagency team looked for high quality proposals that addressed urgent management concerns. We also wanted to achieve an appropriate balance between the regions, and between the different types of projects. We recognized that, based on the distribution of Federal lands and waters, the management issues confronting the Board are greater in some regions than others. The Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, for example, have large Federal land areas, with intensive subsistence fisheries.

A final package of FY 2000 projects will be circulated for Regional Council and public review before Board decisions in mid-May.

### **How to provide your comments**

We invite your review and comments on the current proposals. A comment sheet is found on the backside of each project description.

Several Regional Councils will be able to review the projects for their regions, during the winter meetings. Others will have an opportunity to convene by teleconference to provide comments.

The Board welcomes your comments by March 31, 2000. These comments will be compiled and presented to the Board when it meets on April 6, 2000 to consider this set of proposed projects. Written comments may be submitted to:

Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS  
1011 E. Tudor Road, ms 121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99504  
telephone: 1-800-478-1456 Fax: 907-786-3898  
e-mail: Taylor\_Brelsford@fws.gov